

REMARKS

Claims 10, 13, 15-20 and 25-30 are pending in this application. Claims 10, 13, 16-17 and 25-28 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 13, 15-18 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over *Yamamoto et al.* (USP 6,784,917) in view of *Swift et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0122585); and rejected claims 19-20 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamamoto et al.* in view of *Swift et al.* and further in view of *Iizuka et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0054207). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103 – *Yamamoto et al./Swift et al.*

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 10 to recite an image coding apparatus for coding a plurality of images data corresponding respectively to a plurality of viewpoints, comprising a joining means for joining the plurality of images data based on a predetermined joining method; a coding means for coding a joined image data; and a 2-dimensional display image generating method coding means for coding a method representing how a 2-dimensional display image is generated from the joined image data.

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 10, the Examiner admits that *Yamamoto et al.* fails to teach or suggest a 2-dimensional display image generating method coding means for coding a method of generating a 2-dimensional display image from the joined image data. The Examiner relies on the teachings of *Swift et al.* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of

Yamamoto et al. citing to paragraph [0027] and Fig. 1. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of this reference.

The disclosure of *Swift et al.* is directed to an electronic stereoscopic media delivery system.

At paragraph [0030], *Swift et al.* discloses as follows:

[0030] The encoding processes used include independent compression of the Left and Right images. ...

Further, at paragraphs [0045-0046], *Swift et al.* discloses as follows:

[0045] Monoscopic and Stereoscopic Viewing allows greater distribution since both types can be viewed within one system. Prior Electronic Stereoscopic viewing systems only display stereoscopic media. The embodiments of the invention accommodate monoscopic and stereoscopic viewing. The embodiments of the invention allow users to access stereoscopic media without a 3D stereoscopic enabled physical viewing device. This invention can have greater distribution and market penetration since it is not dependent upon a physical viewing device. This viewing system can be toggled to display monoscopic, as well as various stereoscopic modes (color anaglyph, gray anaglyph, line interleaved, page-flipping, cross-eye, parallel viewing, etc.). In monoscopic mode, the image appears in 2D like other 2D web based images which allows all web users to view the images in 2D even if they do not have a stereoscopic viewing device.

[0046] This is accomplished by showing either the left or right mono image. The user can select whether to view the left or right monoscopic view. Users without a physical stereo viewing device can see the media in monoscopic form by selecting to use either the right or left monoscopic views.

As can be seen from the above teachings, *Swift et al.* discloses that the 2D image is generated from either the right or left monoscopic views that are not joined.

However, claim 10 clearly recites joining the plurality of images data based on a predetermined joining method and coding a joined image data. Further, claim 10 clearly recites coding a method representing how a 2-dimensional display image is generated from the joined image data.

Because *Swift et al.* teaches generating 2D image from either the right or left monoscopic views that are not joined, *Swift et al.* fails to teach or suggest that a 2-dimensional display image is generated from the joined image data.

In addition, based on Applicants' understanding of the Examiner's rejection, the left or right image itself of *Swift et al.* corresponds to the claimed "2-dimensional display image." However, *Swift et al.* fails to teach or suggest a method representing how the left or right images (2-dimensional display image) is generated and coded.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that neither of the references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the claim elements and, as such, the Examiner has failed to establish prima facie obviousness. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 13, 16-17 and 25-28 include elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 10 and thus these claims, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 10.

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 16, the Examiner admits that *Yamamoto et al.* fails to teach or suggest the header information in a predetermined format, wherein the header portion stores stereo image identification information that represents the fact that the coded data constitutes a stereo image made up of a plurality of images data and information that represents a joining method of joining the plurality of images data. The Examiner relies on the teachings of *Swift et al.* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Yamamoto et al.* citing to Fig. 10, VRR file, ref. nos. 1004, 1006 and 1008.

VRR (a Vector-based gRaphic editoR) is a software application designed especially for creating illustrations of mathematical articles. VRR has a simple but powerful operation set: creating, manipulating and transforming basic graphic primitives, which are points, segments,

rational Bézier curves, elliptic arcs etc. All objects can be determined not only by absolute coordinates, but also by geometric dependencies on other objects – intersections, significant points, other curves etc. When an object is changed, the dependent objects are recalculated automatically. This enables a user to modify the image easily without breaking the lines visually tied together.

VRR has a sophisticated system for working with text. In addition to common text objects, it allows you to create text objects typeset by TeX and make them part of your image. A user can create almost anything from a short math expression to several paragraphs of a text.

The editor is able to import from and export to files in common data formats (export to PDF, PS, EPS and SVG, import from IPE5 and SVG).

VRR is a freely available open source program, which runs on Linux and uses a graphical user interface based on the X Window System and GTK. The editor can be also easily extended by a plugin or by a program written in its built-in scripting language, Scheme.

Swift et al. discloses in paragraph 0054 as follows:

A stereo media file format may contain certain sub media such as VRR and blocks. An embodiment supports a stereoscopic media file that contains sub-media. Specifically, a file structure is created to store and preserve various types of stereo media in various formats. Additionally, this file format can also store monoscopic media, as well as audio or other data. This one file format can store multiple or single stereo/non-stereo media elements. FIG. 10 illustrates a VRR file 1000 that may contain a script 1002, a Stereo Still Image 1004, a Stereoscopic Animation/movie 1006, Stereoscopic Object Model 1008, a Thumbnail 1010, and Audio 1012. This embodiment also allows multiple resolution images to be stored in one media file or to be referenced (linked to) from one media file.

Applicants respectfully submit that Fig. 10, and the description of Fig. 10 as set forth above, fails to teach or suggest a recording medium storing coded image data together with

header information, wherein the header portion stores stereo image identification information. Further Applicants respectfully submit that *Swift et al.* fails to teach that the header portion stores information that represents the fact that the coded data constitutes a stereo image and information that represents a joining method of joining the plurality of images data.

Swift et al. discloses a VRR script together with a plurality of media elements. However, this information is insufficient to teach the header information as claimed. As such, Applicants maintain that claim 16 is not obvious over the references as cited.

Claim 17 includes elements similar to those discussed with regard to claim 16 and thus, claim 17 is not obvious over the references as cited.

Claim 25 recites an image recording apparatus for recording a plurality of images data corresponding respectively to a plurality of viewpoints, into a recording area, wherein the recording area includes an image recording sector for recording the joined image data or the 2-dimensional image data; an audio recording sector for recording an audio data; and a subcode sector for recording an associated information.

In support of the Examiner's rejection of this claim, the Examiner, again, relies on Fig. 10 of *Swift et al.* to teach these claim elements, specifically referring to elements 1002, 1004, 1006 and 1012. Applicants disagree that these elements are sufficient to teach the sectors as claimed.

Fig. 10 merely depicts a block diagram of the media elements that are included in VRR file 1000. The media elements of VRR file 1000 are insufficient to teach or suggest the recording sectors of the recording area as recited in the claim. As such, claim 25 is not obvious over the references as cited as *Swift et al.* fails to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Yamamoto et al.*

Claims 26 and 27 recite elements similar to those discussed with regard to claim 25 and thus these claims are not obvious over the references as cited for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 25.

Claim 28 recites a recording area including a subcode sector for recording an associated information, and a coded data of information of generating the 2-dimensional display image is recorded in the subcode recording sector. The Examiner relies on Fig. 10, element 1002 and paragraph 0027 to teach these claim elements. However, as noted above with regard to claim 25, the media elements depicted in Fig. 10 are not sufficient to teach sectors in a recording area as recited in the claim. As such, claim 28 is not obvious over the references as cited as *Swift* fails to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Yamamoto*.

For all of the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness and thus request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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